



# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2007

Number 2

## Old Fashioned Christmas

On Sunday, December 2nd from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual "OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH". The purpose of the event is to provide some old fashioned Christmas spirit and activities for families in Plymouth. Children can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be right there to help the Elves hand out candy canes. A hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling will be giving rides for a small fee, hot cider and cookies will be provided, carolers and making Christmas decorations are other activities for the children.

This year we again have our great story teller back. Bob Gasch will be telling holiday stories, something you don't want to miss! Also the Armstrong Chamber Singers will be singing

holiday songs and delighting the children young and old.

On Saturday, December 1st starting at 9 am, we will decorate the two old fashioned Christmas trees and the building. We are looking for help in decorating and bringing items that could be borrowed for the day to add some more old fashioned Christmas spirit.

If you can help to bring decorations, please call Gary Schiebe, 763-473-4889.

So bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and kids ages 9 months to 90 years young. The annual event has attracted large crowds with some families having a perfect attendance record with their children since it started in 1987. We had a great time last year as we do every year

### *Activities include:*

*Visit with Santa*

*Old Fashioned Hay Ride*

*Hot Cider and Cookies*

*Old Fashioned Xmas Decorations*



*Old Toy Train Display*

*Crafts*

*Story Telling by Bob Gasch*

*Music Groups  
Armstrong Chamber Singers  
Messiah Recorder Ensemble*

## A Few Early Farm Houses Remain

There are quite a few old farm houses in Plymouth that we pass by every day but don't recognize them because they don't look like a farm house today. If only the walls could talk what tales they would have as the families that lived there played a very important role in the growth and maturing of Plymouth. The early settlers homesteaded the land and had to improve the holdings by clearing the land and building a home/shelter which was typically a log cabin. As they prospered they could afford to build a more substantial farm house. They have been remodeled numerous times and may be difficult to recognize as the out-buildings are gone and the land subdivided.

If anybody old pictures of farms in Plymouth the Plymouth Historical Society would greatly appreciate hearing from you. We are slowly building our inventory of farm pictures that are being added to a Power Point presentation on the History of Plymouth. To give you an idea of a couple of old farm houses close by each other on Cty. Road 6 (use to be an Indian trail and then Watertown Road)



**Frederick and later Henry Radintz Farm House circa 1940's**

**Located on Watertown Road (Cty Rd 6) just west of Hwy 101,  
North side of road across from the pond west of Messiah Methodist Church.  
Today if you look behind the farm house you would see many houses in Imperial Hills.**

**Frederick Radintz came to America in 1852 and made his way to Minnesota stopping to work in northern Michigan, Chicago and St. Anthony. It was 1854 when he built a log shanty in Plymouth on the land that**

he pre-empted on November 24, 1860 paying \$1.25 per acres for 130 acres. He married Christina Schnable in 1857 and the small cabin served as their home and started farming with three cows. The Indians were quite numerous and camped at Gleason's Lake in about 1855 and were no trouble. After the Sioux and Chippewa war at the Minnesota River near Shakopee, the Chippewa came through Plymouth. One band stopped at the Frederick's house and took all the bread from the over. The family grew (14 children) and prospered so a large log house was built in 1872.

Frederick's son Henry married Antoinette (Nettie) Mengelkoch, a daughter of Clement Mengelkoch another one of the first settlers of Plymouth Township. The family represents the first generation of two first settlers of Plymouth Township. They lived and worked the farm (original homestead) and farmed until 1928 when Henry retired and moved to North Minneapolis.

The farm was sold and the original log structure is still part of the old Radinz house which has been remodeled several times. In the 1940's the farm was rented by Clarence Dressel. As a result a nephew David Dressel spent time on the farm in his teen years and provided this wonderful photo's depicting farm life along Cty Road 6.



**Vegetable Stand**

**In front of farm along Watertown Road circa 1948**



### **Farm House Today**

**Remodeled many years ago saving part of Plymouth's early history.  
As a reference, entrance to Imperial Hills is to the left of house.**





**Heidlberger Farm Circa 1940-50's**

**Located on North side of Watertown Road Cty Rd 6 just before Ferndale Rd**



**Farm House in process of being remodeled with large homes on the rest of the farm.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class Tours

On six days in October the Plymouth Historical hosted the second grade classes from Birchview, Sunset and Oakwood Elementary Schools. The event was organized by Sue Strom – teacher and Bob Gasch – story teller and is getting bigger each year. The children arrived by bus and had two adults for each six students. Their assignment was a history scavenger hunt. They had a checklist with a variety of items that they had to locate in the museum and determine what it was or what it was used for. They were very well organized into groups and toured the museum, carriage house and Bob Gasch took them for a story telling walk in the “Big Woods” with the maple trees in full color. Vern Dotseth, Kay Bertrand, Betty & Dennis Jacobson, Ben Broman and Gary Schiebe hosted our young visitors. Before each group left to return to school the 1925 Ford Model T Truck was started up and all the horns tooted to the delight of the kids and adults. The Wolf Whistle was the big hit and they were told that young men put them on their cars to attract the attention of young ladies. One Second Grade girl said loudly “Wow that is a girl magnet”

### Donations

The Plymouth Historical Society wants to thank the following people or groups for their donations:

- Large quantity of pictures and marketing postcard/map of Mission Farms – Rev. Paul’s family
- Copper Boiler, Kant Hook, Antique Bottles, Buck Saw, Corn Planter, Beaver Pelt Stretcher and Single Tree - Tom Stewart, Plymouth
- Victrola Phonograph and records, it is in wonderful restored condition. – Harriet & Glenn LaBorde, Plymouth
- Sunset Hill Elementary donated \$50 and Oakwood Elementary donated \$75 as a thank you for their visits.
- The Wayzata Class of 1957 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion this summer at the Lafayette Club. They made a donation of \$100.

### Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Ben Broman	763-559-5721
Vice President	Dennis Jacobson	763-972-0988
Secretary	Betty Jacobson	763-972-0988
Treasurer	Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889



### Meetings

The monthly meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Historical Society Building, located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane North, Plymouth, MN. The Museum is also open the third Sunday of the Month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM during the Spring Summer and Fall.

## Mailing and Membership List



If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call:  
Kay Bertrand, 763-249-0138.

The 2008 annual dues are:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Individual Lifetime	\$100.00
Family Lifetime	\$150.00

*We want to see You at the  
Old Fashioned Christmas*



*Merry  
Christmas*